

big drum, the property men, the scene shifters, the supers, the subs, the programmes, the manuals, the hand-books, the ushers, the *claqueurs*, and now when the little theoretical monsters that have so long compelled our attention are dead or dying it is time to remove them from the stage. The carcases of dead theories offend the mental eye and poison the intellectual atmosphere. The Educational Health Inspector should now interfere and have this nuisance removed. Perhaps it would be well to renovate the premises before the next season begins.

#### MR. MATTHEW ARNOLD.

THE visit to Toronto of Mr. Matthew Arnold, widely known to teachers as the son of Dr. Arnold, of Rugby, and as one of Her Majesty's Inspectors of Schools, the author, too, of "Higher Schools and Universities in Germany," "On Translating Homer," "Essays in Criticism," and other educational works, and to the general public as a poet and philosopher, gifted with a singularly acute and powerful mind which expresses itself in a beautiful style, is an educational and literary event of some importance. Although Mr. Arnold has, it is said, paid but little attention to school matters in his visit to America, and in Boston even declined a reception from the profession, yet it would not be wise to conclude that he takes no interest in the educational problem being worked out upon this continent. Indeed, we suspect from a very pungent essay of his two years ago, that his mind is quite made up upon the meaning and value of American common school education. He is not visiting America as a school inspector, but rather as a philosopher and observer of men and manners, and we shall not seek to blame him for his seeming neglect of a profession that for so many years has given him employment and called forth some of his best work.

It is of much more importance to observe that Mr. Arnold looks at education from an ethical and not commercial point of view, and the best education, in his opinion, is to know best what has best been said and thought in the

world. He has no quarrel with science for what it is worth, but, in his opinion, it has no power to relate its results to what he calls the instinct for conduct and beauty, for social life and manliness. He thinks a little of mathematics goes, and should go, a long way for the majority of mankind, and finds in literature, and especially in Greek, that which refreshes and delights, fortifies and elevates, quickens and suggests, that which will make a man live more, and that which satisfies the instinct for conduct and beauty.

In the controversy as to the merits of literature and science as educative instruments, we need not too ardently espouse the cause of either Arnold or Huxley. There is room for both, but in this intensely material age, it is well for those who have the direction of educational affairs to examine closely the trend of special lines of study. The visit of Mr. Arnold to America will direct the attention of educators to principles, methods and objects. If he is a prophet crying in the wilderness, let us heed his voice.

#### ART EDUCATION IN ONTARIO.

THE visitor to the Normal School buildings, Toronto, if he be at all familiar with the place, will observe many changes that have recently been effected there. The Depository once so familiar to trustees and teachers in search of school outfits and prize-books, is shrunk to a mere book-stall for supplying the wants of the Normal and Model School students, and Art school-rooms, a library and a reading-room have taken its place. On any ordinary day may be seen large classes under enthusiastic and competent instructors, drawing from models or modelling in clay. The easel has taken the place of the book-shelf, and the plastic clay of the fossil. The intention of the authorities is not only to afford facilities for art students, but also to supply an efficient corps of instructors in drawing throughout the Province. A recent *conversazione* gave the public an opportunity to see that much substantial progress has been made and that the outlook for art education is most promising. In due